

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5264

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18388

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAIR US UR

SUBJ: SOVIET NOTE ON EXPANSION OF BILATERAL AIR SERVICES

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED DEC 10 MFA NOTE NO 96 OSSHA DATED DEC 9 CONTAINING SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR REVISING PARAGRAPH 5 OF ANNEX TO PROTOCOL OF JUNE 23, 1973, REGARDING EXPANSION OF BILATERAL AIR SERVICES. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF NOTE FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND, REFERRING TO THE AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN AEROFLOT AND PAN AMERICAN ON NOVEMBER 1 OF THIS YEAR REGARDING QUESTIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF REGULAR AIR LINKS AND ALSO THE PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE USSR AND USA OF JUNE 23, 1973, ON QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE EXPANSION OF AIR SERVICES, HAS THE HONOR TO PROPOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE FOLLOWING TEXT OF PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE ANNEX TO THE ABOVE-REFERENCED PROTOCOL: INNER QUOTE: EACH DESIGNATED AIRLINE MAY OPERATE UP TO FOUR FLIGHTS PER WEEK DURING THE 1975 SUMMER PERIOD (APRIL 1, 1975, THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 1975), AND THEREAFTER THE FREQUENCY OF FLIGHTS WILL BE AGREED BETWEEN THE CONTRACTING PARTIES. THE DESIGNATED AIRLINE OF THE USA
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MAY EXERCISE THE RIGHT SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 4 ON ALL ITS

FLIGHTS. THE DESIGNATED AIRLINE OF THE USSR MAY EXERCISE THE RIGHT SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 4 ON TWO OF ITS FLIGHTS. END INNER QUOTE. THE MINISTRY PROPOSES THAT IN THE EVENT OF THE ACCEPTABILITY TO THE AMERICAN SIDE OF THE INDICATED TEXT THIS NOTE AND A RESPONSE TO IT FROM THE EMBASSY OF THE USA COMPRISE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES REGARDING ALTERATION OF PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE ANNEX TO THE PROTOCOL OF JUNE 23, 1973, WHICH WILL ENTER INTO FORCE ON THE DAY OF THE EMBASSY'S REPLY. END QUOTE.

3. COPY OF MFA NOTE BEING POUCHED (REGISTRY NUMBER 2006008) TO EUR/SOV, ATTN: MILTON KOVNER. ALSO BEING POUCHED, IN UNLIKELY EVENT THAT DEPT. HAS NOT ALREADY RECEIVED IT, IS COPY OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF NOV. 1, 1974, WHICH WAS REFERRED TO IN MFA NOTE. EMBASSY RECEIVED MEMORANDUM FROM MOSCOW PAN AM REPRESENTATIVE DRAHORAD.

4. IN ADDITION TO REACHING TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON INCREASING FREQUENCIES FOR 1975 SUMMER PERIOD TO FOUR FLIGHTS PER WEEK, MEMORANDUM INDICATES THAT PROGRESS WAS ACHIEVED ON ALL OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS EXCEPT TICKETING OF SOVIET CITIZENS AND FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN RUBLES FOR TRAVEL NOT ORIGINATING IN MOSCOW. SOVIET POSITION IS THAT SUCH TICKETS--ISSUED FOR RUBLES--COULD BE TURNED IN FOR HARD CURRENCY REFUND ONCE TRAVELER IS OUTSIDE USSR, THUS CIRCUMVENTING SOVIET CURRENCY REGULATIONS. SOVIET SIDE AT PAN AM-AEROFLOT TALKS APPARENTLY DID NOT ARGUE POINT THAT THIS PRACTICE REPRESENTS CLEAR, CONTINUING VIOLATION OF EXISTING INTERLINE AGREEMENT.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT USG SHOULD RESIST INCREASING FREQUENCIES UNTIL MUCH STRICTER ADHERENCE BY SOVIETS TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES HAS BEEN ATTAINED. THIS IS ESPECIALLY THE CASE AS FAR AS TICKETING IS CONCERNED.

6. GUIDANCE REQUESTED FOR RESPONSE TO MFA NOTE. DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO SUBSTANCE OF PAN AM-AEROFLOT DISCUSSIONS WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED.
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